

McLANE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud McLane for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. McLane started as a small retail grocer in 1894 and grew to a leading grocery, wholesaler and distributor in the 1970s and 1980s and to a worldwide logistics powerhouse in the 1990s. Today it is a global wholesale distributor of 35,000 products to over 50,000 businesses in the grocery, foodservice, convenience, mass merchandise, quick service restaurant, and drug store industries. In 2017, McLane completed a 226,000 square-foot facility along Tower Road creating 235 new jobs to Commerce City.

McLane is passionate about making a difference in the community. The company creates a diverse and inclusive workforce through their Hiring Our Heroes and Operation Network of Champions hiring initiatives. Employees also proudly support the Children's Miracle Network and the United Way.

I extend my deepest congratulations to McLane for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF RON CARSON**HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise, on behalf of Congressman BOBBY SCOTT and myself, to recognize the achievements of Ron Carson who has made the plight of tens of thousands of disabled coal miners a central part of his life's work. Through his decades of work directing three black lung clinics in Southwest Virginia, and tireless advocacy efforts across the coal fields of this country, he offered help and hope to miners whose lungs were irreversibly scarred with the scourge of black lung disease.

Ron was born in Pennington Gap, Virginia during segregation. He attended a one-room primary school on land that his great-great-grandmother, Rachael Scott, had donated in 1939 for education of black children in Lee County. Ron and his wife Jill, a Member of the Town Council in Pennington Gap, founded the Appalachian African American Cultural Center in that same brick school house, which now preserves the life stories, history, heritage, culture and events of African Americans in Southwest Virginia. Although segregated in housing and schools, African Americans found a measure of inclusion in Central Appalachia, where they were able to work free from the harsh conditions in the Deep South, and many received equal pay for their work mining coal.

Ron worked for Westmoreland Coal Co. in Appalachia, Virginia as did his stepfather. His grandfather and great-grandfather both worked

for many years for Blue Diamond Coal in Bonny Blue, Virginia. Ron later attended the Massachusetts School of Pharmacy, and in 1990 returned as an outreach worker in the black lung clinic operating out of the St. Charles Community Health Clinic. For the past 20 years he has served as the director of three black lung clinics which are now part of Stone Mountain Health Services. In addition to helping miners secure diagnostic tests, treatment and benefits counseling, Ron led an effort to develop what is now the largest program for non-lawyers to successfully advocate for black lung benefits before the U.S. Department of Labor.

There are very few attorneys who represent miners filing claims for black lung benefits. And, coal miners proceedings pro se are no match for the expert legal and medical resources that coal companies and insurers dedicate to each case. Ron and his team have worked to fill this void by providing training for clinics, doctors, lawyers and lay representatives in all 15 coal producing states. The lay advocates working for the Stone Mountain clinics have helped miners win over 2,000 black lung claims in the past 17 years.

In recent years, Ron documented how miners with progressive massive fibrosis (PMF), the most advanced form of black lung disease, have flooded the clinics in southwestern Virginia. Working with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), he recently co-authored an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association which verified an epidemic of this lethal form of the disease in Central Appalachia and helped to elevate national awareness. "Mining disasters get monuments, meanwhile black lung deaths get tombstones. And I've seen many a tombstone in the last 28 years from black lung," he noted.

At a roundtable Ron organized in Wise, Virginia, disabled miners, physicians and lawyers explained how the current black lung adjudication process keeps justice out of reach for far too many deserving miners and survivors.

Ron Carson has been accessible to Members of Congress and provided wise counsel, as well as compassionate and enduring service to his community. He has been recognized by the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) and his peers in the black lung community. On behalf of our colleagues in the House of Representatives, Congressman SCOTT and I extend our appreciation for Ron's service to those in need.

HONORING MR. SHELDON DILL**HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend Sheldon Dill, who the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce is celebrating upon his retirement at its awards dinner in my hometown of Cheshire, Connecticut. Sheldon has served as President of the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce for the past twelve years, and his leadership has proven invaluable through the challenges that our town, state, and nation have faced.

Sheldon has led an impressive career in public service. He served on the Cheshire

Town Council, in fact, I took over his position on the Council in 2005, and his ability to work with members of both political parties earned him the respect both of his fellow councilmembers and of our entire town. Cheshire residents know Sheldon as a dedicated and creative problem solver who is always willing to advocate for our town.

As President of the Chamber of Commerce, Sheldon has been a strong advocate for Cheshire's small businesses and has worked to keep the American Dream a reality for families in our community. The past decade has seen big changes in Connecticut, but Sheldon has made sure Cheshire's businesses have a strong voice. He leaves behind a legacy of service to our town, and his commitment to Cheshire sets a high bar for the rest of us working in public service to meet. I wish him a restful—and much deserved—retirement full of time spent with his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Sheldon Dill has served the Cheshire community as an elected official, a volunteer, and an advocate for our business community. His leadership as President of the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce for the last twelve years has made our community stronger and better able to lead in the 21st Century. It is proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 27, 2018, I regret not being present for two vote sessions. During both instances, I was with my constituents and the meeting extended longer than expected. It prevented me from making it to the House floor on time to submit the first vote in each series.

Had I been present, I would have voted in support of the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 4296, Roll Call No. 88, and against the Motion to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair, Roll Call No. 83.

SUTRAK**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Sutrak for receiving the 2018 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales, or new capital investment to Commerce City. Sutrak is a manufacturer of HVAC systems for transit vehicles including bus, light rail, and automated people movers. Founded in the 1970s by Hugh Ferdows in Germany, Sutrak expanded into the United States and Colorado by the early 1980s.

With over 30 years of domestic production, Sutrak systems have been installed on virtually every major bus, light rail vehicle, and automatic people mover system manufacturer in the United States. Sutrak completed a